AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 [[1]] wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encoded, wherein said function ~~of said step b)~~ is performed without decoding said media data.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) comprises the step of:~~ In an intermediate node disposed between a source node and a plurality of receiving nodes in a network, a method for transcoding a stream of data packets, said method comprising:

receiving said stream of data packets from said source node, wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encrypted;

performing a function on said stream of data packets, wherein said function is for configuring said stream of data packets according to attributes downstream of said intermediate node and wherein said function is performed without decrypting said media data, said function comprising truncating data packets in said stream of data packets at a truncation point in each data packet selected according to said attributes downstream of said intermediate node; and

sending to a receiving node a stream of encrypted data packets compatible with said attributes downstream of said intermediate node.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 [[1]] wherein a data packet in said stream of data packets comprises a payload portion and a header portion, wherein said payload portion comprises said media data and wherein said

header portion comprises information identifying points for truncating said payload portion according to said attributes downstream of said intermediate node.

5. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified in said header portion.

6. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are derived from said information identifying points for truncating said payload portion.

7. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said payload portion is encrypted and said header portion is unencrypted.

8. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said payload portion and said header portion are encrypted.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 8 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

decrypting only said header portion.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said truncating further comprises ~~step b) comprises the steps of~~:

selecting said ~~a~~ truncation point according to said attributes downstream of said intermediate node; and

truncating payload portions of data packets in said stream of data packets at said truncation point ~~selected~~.

11. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified according to an analysis.

12. (Original) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 11 wherein said analysis is a rate-distortion analysis.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 4 further comprising ~~wherein said step b) further comprises the steps of~~:

accumulating in memory a subset of data packets in said data stream; and

configuring said subset of data packets such that said subset satisfies said attributes downstream of said intermediate node.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 further comprising ~~1 wherein said step b) comprises the step of~~:

eliminating data packets from said stream of data packets.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 [[1]] wherein said attributes downstream of said intermediate node comprise attributes of said receiving node.

16. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 15 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving information from said receiving node; and

determining said attributes of said receiving node using said information from said receiving node.

17. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 [[1]] wherein said attributes downstream of said intermediate node comprise attributes of a communication channel linking said intermediate node and said receiving node.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for transcoding a stream of data packets as recited in Claim 3 [[1]] wherein said media data are selected from the group comprising: video data, audio data, image data, graphic data, and web page data.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encoded, wherein said transcoder is adapted to configure said stream of data packets according to said attributes of said receiving node without decoding said media data.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 19~~ A device for transcoding a stream of data packets, wherein said device is an intermediate node disposed between a source node and a plurality of receiving nodes in a network, said device comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive said stream of data packets from a source node, wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encrypted;

a transcoder coupled to said receiver and adapted to configure said stream of data packets according to attributes downstream of said device without decrypting said media data, wherein said transcoder is adapted to truncate data packets in said stream of data packets at a truncation point in each data packet selected according to said attributes downstream of said device; and

a transmitter coupled to said transcoder and adapted to send to a receiving node a stream of encrypted data packets compatible with said attributes downstream of said device.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein a data packet comprises a payload portion and a header portion, wherein said payload portion comprises said media data and wherein said header portion comprises information identifying points for truncating said payload portion according to said attributes downstream of said device.

23. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified in said header portion.

24. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are derived from said information identifying points for truncating said payload portion.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein said payload portion is encrypted and said header portion is unencrypted.

26. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein said payload portion and said header portion are encrypted.

27. (Original) The device of Claim 26 comprising:

a decrypter coupled to said transcoder, said decrypter adapted to decrypt said header portion.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 26 wherein said transcoder is further adapted to select said ~~a~~ truncation point according to said attributes downstream of said device and to truncate payload portions of data packets in said stream of data packets at said truncation point ~~selected~~.

29. (Original) The device of Claim 26 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified according to an analysis.

30. (Original) The device of Claim 29 wherein said analysis is a rate-distortion analysis.

31. (Original) The device of Claim 26 comprising:

a memory unit coupled to said transcoder, said memory unit adapted to accumulate a subset of data packets in said data stream;

wherein said transcoder is further adapted to configure said subset of data packets such that said subset satisfies said attributes downstream of said device.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein said transcoder is further adapted to eliminate data packets from said stream of data packets.

33. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein said attributes downstream of said device comprise attributes of said receiving node.

34. (Original) The device of Claim 33 wherein said transcoder is further adapted to receive information from said receiving node and to determine said attributes of said receiving node using said information from said receiving node.

35. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein said attributes downstream of said device comprise attributes of a communication channel linking said intermediate node and said receiving node.

36. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 21 [[19]] wherein said media data are selected from the group comprising: video data, audio data, image data, graphic data, and web page data.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 37 wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encoded, wherein said function ~~of said step b)~~ is performed without decoding said media data.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer-usable medium of Claim 37 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:~~ A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a transcoder to perform a method comprising:

receiving a stream of data packets from a source node, wherein said transcoder is disposed between said source node and a plurality of receiving nodes in a network, and wherein said stream of data packets comprises media data that are encrypted;

performing a function on said stream of data packets, wherein said function is for configuring said stream of data packets according to attributes downstream of said transcoder and wherein said function is performed without decrypting said media data, said function comprising truncating data packets in said stream of data packets at a truncation point in each data packet selected according to said attributes downstream of said transcoder; and

sending to a receiving node a stream of encrypted data packets compatible with said attributes downstream of said transcoder.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 [[37]] wherein a data packet in said stream of data packets comprises a payload portion and a header portion, wherein said payload portion comprises said media data and wherein said header portion comprises information identifying points for truncating said payload portion according to said attributes downstream of said transcoder.

41. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified in said header portion.

42. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are derived from said information identifying points for truncating said payload portion.

43. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said payload portion is encrypted and said header portion is unencrypted.

44. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said payload portion and said header portion are encrypted.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 44 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a transcoder ~~computer system~~ to perform said method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

decrypting only said header portion.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a transcoder ~~computer system~~ to perform said method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

selecting said ~~a~~ truncation point according to said attributes downstream of said transcoder; and

truncating payload portions of data packets in said stream of data packets at said truncation point ~~selected~~.

47. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said points for truncating said payload portion are specified according to an analysis.

48. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 47 wherein said analysis is a rate-distortion analysis.

49. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 40 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a transcoder ~~computer system~~ to perform said method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accumulating in memory a subset of data packets in said data stream; and

configuring said subset of data packets such that said subset satisfies said attributes downstream of said transcoder.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 [[37]] wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a transcoder ~~computer system~~ to perform said method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

eliminating data packets from said stream of data packets.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 [[37]] wherein said attributes downstream of said transcoder comprise attributes of said receiving node.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 51 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a transcoder ~~computer system~~ to perform said method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

receiving information from said receiving node; and

determining said attributes of said receiving node using said information from said receiving node.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 [[37]] wherein said attributes downstream of said transcoder comprise attributes of a communication channel linking said transcoder and said receiving node.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 39 [[37]] wherein said media data are selected from the group comprising: video data, audio data, image data, graphic data, and web page data.